

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yusu et al. (US 6,296,915). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection, because the cited reference does not disclose or suggest at least the magneto-optical recording medium having a magnetic film exhibiting magnetic anisotropy in a direction vertical to a surface of the magnetic film.

The Yusu et al. reference discloses a phase change optical recording medium including a recording layer provided between a first interference layer and a second interference layer. The recording layer is changeable between crystalline and amorphous states when light is irradiated.

The Examiner recognizes that Yusu et al. does not disclose the claimed magnetic film which exhibits magnetic anisotropy in a direction vertical to a surface of the magnetic film. The Examiner, however, appears to assert that it would have been obvious to merely substitute the recording layer of the phase change optical recording medium of Yusu et al., with a magnetic film exhibiting magnetic anisotropy in a direction vertical to a surface of the magnetic film, to derive the present invention.

Applicant respectfully submits that it would not have been obvious to replace the recording layer of the phase change optical recording medium of Yusu et al. with a magnetic film which exhibits magnetic anisotropy in a direction vertical to the surface of the magnetic film. The Yusu et al. reference teaches that the “principal of recording and reproducing information on or from phase change optical recording medium lies in

irradiating semiconductor laser light onto a recording layer on a substrate, and thereby reversibly change the status of a recording portion between amorphous and crystal phases” (col. 1, lines 17-21; emphasis added). The reference further teaches that “phase change optical recording mediums have further advantages that they need no magnetic field which is inevitable in case of magneto-optical recording mediums” (col. 1, lines 37-39; emphasis added).

Thus, the Yusu et al. reference specifically discloses a recording medium which changes between amorphous and crystal phases, and expressly teaches away from a recording layer made of a magnetic film. The present invention, in direct contrast to the teachings of Yusu et al., include a recording layer made of a magnetic film, and does not change between amorphous and crystal phases when laser light is irradiated. Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have substituted the recording layer of a phase change optical recording medium of Yusu et al. with a magnetic film which exhibits magnetic anisotropy in a direction vertical to a surface of the magnetic film. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

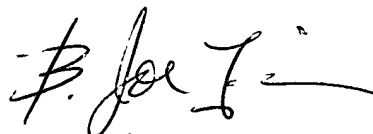
Moreover, the “interference layer” of Yusu et al. does not disclose the “heat-radiation film”, because the interference layer of Yusu needs to transmit light as light is incident from the substrate side. The heat-radiation film of the present invention, in contrast, does not transmit light. The present invention is believed to be allowable for this reason, also.

New claim 10 describes that light is applied on the magnetic film side of the recording medium, which is opposite from the side that the substrate is provided, to read and reproduce data. Yusu et al. teaches that laser light is irradiated on the substrate side of the recording medium. Accordingly, claim 10 is believed to be allowable over Yusu et al.

For all of the above reasons, Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of the claimed invention. The Examiner should contact Applicants' undersigned attorney if a telephone conference would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

GREER, BURNS & CRAIN, LTD.

By 

B. Joe Kim

Registration No. 41,895

December 13, 2004

Suite 2500
300 South Wacker Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60606
(312) 360-0080
Customer No. 24978

P:\DOCS\1405\66007\707054.DOC